



THE

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS

OF PARIS.

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# MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS

Page 5, line 7, for "Danyan" read "Danyau."

" " 8, for "Charrier" read "Cherrier."

" " 10, for "*has* considerably" read "*is* considerably."

" " 14, for "191" read "19.1." 4th line from bottom, for "amazement" read "amusement."

Page 8, line 4, for "hand" read "hands."

" 12, line 14, for "quartier latier," read "quartier latin."

" 15, 4th line from bottom, for "Charletan" read "Charenton."

" 16, 23rd line, for "in a delightful confusion," read "in delightful," &c.

" 24, 5th line from bottom, for "recommee" read "renommee."

" 29, 17th line, for "become" read "be near."

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MONTREAL :

PRINTED AT THE MEDICAL CHRONICLE OFFICE.

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1855.

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**MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS**  
  
OF PARIS.

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BY

**W. HALES HINGSTON, M.D., L.R.C.S.E.**

MEMBER OF THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS AND PHYSICIANS;  
MEMBER OF THE SOCIÉTÉ MÉDICALE ALL. DE PARIS, &C.

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# MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS OF PARIS.

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BY W. HALES HINGSTON, M.D., L.R.C.S.E.  
Member of the German Society of Naturalists and Physicians; Member  
of the Société Médicale Allemande de Paris, &c.

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There are few cities, if any, of modern times presenting the same advantages of witnessing on a large scale the diseased portion of humanity, and the attempts for their alleviation, as does the French capital—Paris has within its walls, not only its own sick, but the sick of the surrounding country, and in many cases, of the Provinces. *Les meilleurs hopitaux, les meilleurs medecines, les meilleurs chirurgiens sont à Paris*, forms an integral part of every Frenchman's belief from the Pyrenees to Calais; and judging from the number of young physicians from Britain and America who there pass a year or two before entering on their professional duties, it would seem that the Frenchman's opinion is shared extensively by those *ultra mare*. Whether we review the long list of names rendered immortal by their well directed efforts to abridge human suffering; enumerate the large number of hospitals for the reception of the sick, or gaze on the army composed of *les héros de la science* still above the sod or lately laid beneath it, we are compelled *volens volens* to admit the greater part of the claim of that Parisian who styles his city "*la ville par excellence des arts, des sciences, et de l'industrie*." So great indeed is the "material" for the pen of the medical historian, that upwards of 50 vols, some of them portly folios, have been written on this subject—institutions, &c. It must not be expected, therefore, that more than a hurried glance can here be given. I will pursue a course somewhat novel in arrangement; instead of taking each *arrondissement*, and describing the several hospitals contained therein, I will commence with those in which the infant first draws the breath of life, follow it to those institutions prepared for its reception when overtaken by disease and indicated by the nature of that disease, thence to the house of refuge for the aged and the infirm, and finally to its last resting place, and perhaps pay it a visit after it is there. I shall introduce in the course of my remarks, in connection with a few of the hospitals, some observations on the physicians and surgeons whose *cliniques* I followed. It is now upwards of twelve months since I quitted the scenes I

am now about to revisit in retrospect. I must claim the reader's indulgence therefore if I state what may clash with his preconceived notions.—In alluding to the management of hospitals and to some of the individuals attending them, I will glean from a few notes taken at the time and written in as candid and liberal a spirit as intuitive likings or dislikings would permit. At this distance of time, short though it be, I cannot venture to retouch—*mais entrerons en matière*. I will begin with the largest Lying-in Hospital in Paris.

L'HOSPICE DE LA MATERNITE.—An abbey in A.D. 1204, which was founded by Matthew de Montmorency; converted into a prison in 1793; destined by a decree of the National Convention of the year IV. to receive the nurses and children formerly placed at the *Val de Grace*; and converted into an hospital for pregnant women in 1814. Patients are admitted after having completed their eighth month, or before that period if in danger of immediate delivery. It contains 530 beds, of which 223 are set apart for expectant parturients, 133 or thereabouts in form of small *cabinets* for women in labour; 11 beds for the nurses and 94 for apprentice midwives, besides 80 cradles. There is a special room for those who feel the first pangs of labour, where they remain until it is thought time to remove them to the room they are to occupy during their accouchement.

None but females are allowed to study as midwives. They are under the *surveillance* of under mistresses, assistant midwives, and the midwife *en chef*. Women in labour are attended by the female students. The latter are taught the theory as well as the practice of midwifery, vaccination, bleeding, and the doses and properties of those plants required during pregnancy and parturition.

When a female presents herself to be admitted as a pupil, she is required to give proof of being able to read and write well; to produce a certificate of birth and of marriage, if married, or if in widowhood the date and circumstances of the death of her husband; also a certificate of good morals by the mayor of the district, which certificate requires to mention the condition of father and mother, and of her husband if she have one; and lastly, a certificate of vaccination or of having had the small pox. During pupilage females are allowed to go out only six times during the year, and then only when accompanied by their father, mother, husband, or some friend particularly mentioned; and are not allowed to commence study when pregnant. They are required to study from the 1st July to that time twelvemonth, when the examination takes place and prizes are distributed. The charge for twelve months amounts to £27 17s. 6d. sterling, of which £24 is for board, the remainder for washing, books, and instruments. This must be paid

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quarterly in advance. Those recommended by the *prefets* of their respective departments are educated gratuitously.

The physicians attending the institution are *Moreau* and *Girardin*—the former, author of a work on Midwifery published in 1830, also of the "*Accoucheur en vogue*,"—and the latter of a treatise on cholera.

The accoucheurs are *Dubois*, accoucheur to the Empress *en cas de besoin*, and son of the accoucheur to Maria Louisa, and *Danyan*. The *accoucheuse en chef* is Madame Charrier, an exceedingly intelligent, active woman, every way qualified for the fit discharge of her duties.

By strict attention to cleanliness, by placing each patient in a separate bed, the proportion of deaths are considerably diminished. Thus, in the Hotel Dieu, before the establishment of the Maternité, where four, or more even, were placed in the same bed, the pregnant with the delivered and those in labor, the mortality averaged 1 in 13. Now it is 1 in 191. In 1850, the *accouchees* numbered 5786, of whom 302 died.

Women usually remain in the Maternité 12 days, at the end of which, they leave, carrying the infant with them. If it be the offspring of an unhallowed passion, it is placed either by its mother, or the institution she has just left, in

*L'Hospice des enfants trouvés et orphelins.*

Hospitals for foundlings are decidedly of ecclesiastical origin, and to a Bishop of Paris is due the credit (according to some) or discredit (according to others) of having founded an establishment for the protection of the innocent (according to the former) or for the encouragement of crime (according to the latter).

It was long ago the custom to place a large basket or cradle in the cathedral of Paris, in which were laid the children of unknown parents, whose helpless condition was well calculated to appeal to the charity of the faithful—hence the name "the poor foundlings of Notre Dame." They were afterwards confided to the care of persons who discharged the duties of mother and nurse, neither, it is to be believed, efficiently, for they were frequently *relet* to others, and in many cases actually sold to nurses who having had the care of children had lost them, and thus the child of shame has, there are grounds for believing, been introduced into the halls of the opulent and the proud to share their honor and to bear their name. Many, on the other hand, were sold to mountebanks and others of that caste, who, by mutilating and otherwise disfiguring them, made them serve to the amazement of the crowd. A child usually brought 18s to 20s of this currency. At the time I am now writing about, when in the vicinity of the *porte St. Victor*, the number of children for admission was so great, and the pecuniary aid so unequal and in-

sufficient, that a certain number were picked out by lottery to be nursed, &c., the remainder were left to their fate. The institution is now on a secure footing, and is situated in Rue de l'Enfer. Children are either sent to nurse in the country, or placed under special care in town, and as an inducement to be kind to their charge the nurse or guardian receives 18 francs if she can furnish proof that the infant had been treated with care and attention. In like manner 50 francs are given to those who have reared their infant to the age of 12 without accident.

Before it became a rule that all children should be examined &c., the number of deaths was truly enormous, even yet the proportion is by far too great. 3rd year of the Republic admitted 3,933, died 3,150. Now the mortality averages 1 in 7.7; whereas in private 1 in 14 is the average.

Children are admitted into the foundling hospital from birth till the age of 10 years. When received the hour of its arrival is correctly noted by a sister of charity, and a number is attached to its right arm; it is then carried to a large room where it is fed with milk along with the rest of the children. A wet nurse is immediately provided, and the child is sent with her to the country, where it remains until the age of 12 years—its whereabouts, however, being kept secret; it is then sent to the Orphelins. If, at any time, the mother should appear, to reclaim her child, she requires to deposit 30 francs, of which 10 are retained for search in case of the child's death, and 20 for defraying expenses of education if living. If reclaimed it remains under the care of the administration until it has attained its majority. The number of children received is upwards of 5,000 per annum.

The following are the statistics for 1850:—

	Foundlings.	Orphans.	En Depot.
Boys,.....	1,822	219	667
Girls,.....	1,769	142	591
	<hr/> 3,491	<hr/> 361	<hr/> 1,258

There were in the country belonging to the

	Boys.	Girls.
hospital in question on the 1st January, 1850,.....	6,474	6,580
Entered during the year.....	8,437	8,475
Left do do .....	881	923
Deaths do do .....	792	757
Remaining on 31st December, .....	6,764	6,795
Children reclaimed during 1850.....	13	5

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In accordance with a law passed in 1850, children are educated after having reached their sixth year. A branch of their education might with propriety be neglected, namely, the looking for gratuities from visitors. Inspectors are appointed who see that the children placed in the hand of nurses in the country and in the city perform their duties with honesty.

The physician in attendance is M. Roger, an observant writer, whose works on the diseases of children and on auscultation and percussion are extensively perused. M. Morel Lavallee is the surgeon.

HOPITAL DES ENFANTS MALADES, situated near the Neckar Hospital in Rue de Sevre, for sick children between the ages of 2 and 15 years, contains 600 beds. Although as clean as any other Parisian hospital, and attended with equal assiduity by the medical staff as well as by the nurses, phthisis here makes dreadful ravages—much, no doubt, depends on the sombre, cheerless appearance of the hospital. Mortality was never under 1 in 6—but 1 in 4.8 is the general average. Trousseau was connected with this institution previous to his recent translation to the Hotel Dieu. The most popular of the staff is *Guersant*, a somewhat prosy lecturer, but good surgeon, eminently practical and a favorite with the profession, who have elected him President of the “*Société de Chirurgie*.”

HOTEL-DIEU.—The oldest hospital of the French capital, whose foundation dates as far back as the year 600; was at first a sort of lodging house for the poor and indigent. The number of inmates increasing much more rapidly than the accommodation for them, it degenerated into a “pest house” and serious intentions were entertained of the propriety of destroying it altogether. At one period of its existence mortality was *two* to nine and this as late as the 18th century, when it might be supposed, the broad principles of hygiene should have been more clearly understood

Four, five and six occupied the same bed—small pox, venereal, fever patients, &c., were huddled together; the pregnant, and those in labour with the prostitute and the *accouchee*.—Operations were performed in the same ward in which were those already operated upon, and those whose turn it was next, to suffer. Indeed when we read the report of the commissioners appointed to visit the Hotel-Dieu, (of which Lavoisier was one), we wonder that the mortality (2 in 9) was not greater; or that out of nine there could escape two. But this state of things did not continue after the revolution; hospitals were constructed in the different *arrondissements*; for the small pox, the venereal, the affected with calculus,

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the pregnant, &c., special hospitals were provided, and the Hotel Dieu disgorged herself of her superabundance.

Every patient has now a separate bed, of which there are 1260. About 13,000 receive medical and surgical aid during the year, of which upwards of 1400 die. Mortality is 1 in 7.39 in the service of medicine, and 1 in 22.50 in that of surgery; and 1 in 9.06 when conjoined. The hospital occupies both banks of the Seine, connected together by a covered bridge; it is built entirely of stone—stone walls, stone ceilings, stone floors. To some of the wards we descend as if into the ground, and into which the light penetrates but feebly. Many of them resemble dungeons—nor are iron bars wanting to improve the comparison. They are all, however, kept scrupulously clean. The bedsteads are of iron, with curtains of blue cotton. Louis, Martin Solon, Guerard, Chome', Piedagnel, Horteloup, Réquin, and Trousseau are the physicians.

Louis never took much trouble with those visiting the hospital. He prefers holding communion with the medical world through the medium of the pen, rather than *viva voce*. Of the remainder, Trousseau's is the most numerously attended medical clinique in Paris. He is very popular as a lecturer, and dwells at great length on the doses and properties of medicines. He lectures with wonderful facility, and is possessed of the rare faculty of making listeners believe that what he is talking about is unquestionably the most important matter he has ever submitted to their consideration. Thus, one morning's lecture was occupied with *veratria*, and its employment in acute rheumatism. It was (so he told us) to supersede all other remedies. Borax and honey in croup and whooping cough formed the subject of another morning's lecture, and if his listeners did not feel disposed to place as much reliance in those remedies as he did, (which they certainly could not but do after his frequent reiterations of *je l'asserte, je l'affirme, c'est moi qui le dit, &c.*) they were unanimous in their admiration of his eloquence, and of the ingenuity with which he manufactured mountains out of molehills. Yet to be candid, I know of no medical clinic where students can receive more instruction. He prescribes no medicine without explaining its action on the economy, and the results he wishes to obtain. He is very popular with the students, and deservedly so, for they are always treated by him with gentleness and kindness.

The surgeons are (1853), Roux, Boyer, and Jobert de Lamballe. Roux is now so old that, when operating, he makes a series of cuts where one was necessary. The tying of arteries is quickly managed by his assistants, who supply, in a great measure his imperfect vision. His memory

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is fast failing, and this is painfully apparent in his constant repetition of the same matter, clothed frequently in the same words.\*

Jobert de Lamballe has gained considerable reputation by his *chirurgie plastique*, and his treatment of vesico vaginal fistules; yet the rudeness of his manner renders him unpopular, and his clinic very thinly attended. A number, however, collect once a week in the aisle adjoining one of the female wards to see him operating on diseased wombs. It was on one of those occasions that I first saw him, enveloped completely in smoke, which, with the stench arising from the application of the actual canterbury to diseased mouths and necks, was almost intolerable. Seven or eight women are generally operated upon in a morning. A three bladed speculum is introduced up to the os, and through it the red hot iron is applied to the diseased structure. No pain whatever is experienced. Those manipulations necessarily indelicate, are rendered still more repugnant to their feelings, by the rude and disgusting manner in which they are performed. Their persons are uncovered even to their waists, and exposed to the gaze of the assembled: while "*Je suis une femme modeste, Monsieur,*" from them, is met by a severe retort from Jobert. One word of comfort or encouragement I have never heard to escape his lips. He still adheres to the old practice of enveloping recently cut stumps with lint, linen, *plu masseau*, &c. Is a very indifferent lecturer, but manages to fill up the hour, with administering, *entre autre choses*, rebukes to his assistants.

HOPITAL STE. MARGUERITE, now a permanent establishment, although founded in 1840 for the purpose of receiving the sick and wounded, for whom there were no vacancies in the Hotel Dieu. It is a very pretty hospital, in a cheerful part of the city (Rue du Faubourg St. Antoine), surrounded by pretty walks. Upwards of 5000 are here attended during the year, in which the mortality is as 1 in 12.27 in medicine, and 1 in 45.25 in surgery. One of the physicians to this hospital (M. Tessier), is a homœopathist.

HOPITAL DE LA PITIE, founded in 1612. This hospital, formerly received poor children and foundlings, but since the establishment of special houses for that purpose, has become a general hospital. It is a well constructed building, is divided into a number of houses, separated from each other by courts and avenues. Many of the wards look into the Jardin des Plantes, near which it is situated.

Gendrin, Nonat, Serres, Clement and Valleix are the physicians in attendance. The cliniques of Gendrin and Valleix are well attended.

\* Roux has since vacated the chair as *doyen*, and laid aside the knife for ever. He expired on 23rd March, 1854. He was distinguished from the commencement of his professional career, and died beloved even by his confreres.



The former on diseases of the heart, the latter on those of the uterus and nervous diseases. Michon has a surgical clinique, and few Parisian surgeons are more eminently practical. Laugier occupies the official chair in surgery. The hospital contains 624 beds. Nearly 12,000 receive professional assistance during the year; the mortality among which for medicine is 1 in 14.78 and 1 in 27.97 for surgery.

HOPITAL COCHIN, founded in 1779, by Jean Denis Cochin, a curé of the Parish (Ste. Jacques) in which it now stands, and for this purpose he alienated his fortune, although it did not bear his name until after his death. About 5,000 patients are admitted during the year, and the mortality is 1 in 15.4 in the medical wards, and 1 in 14.2 in the surgery. *Beau* and *Maisonneuve* are the physician and surgeon. The latter practices the *coup sur coup* dilatation of the urethra for stricture, and judging from the shrieks of those operated upon, amputation of the penis would, I am certain, be a luxury in comparison. Maisonneuve operates well, but is too meddlesome in his treatment, trusting more, seemingly, to the resources of art than to those of nature.

HOPITAL BEAUJON.—This hospital, situated in the *Faubourg St. Honoré*, is unassuming, and, at the same time, one of the most comfortable hospitals in Paris. It contains 438 beds. On entering this establishment, our nasal organs do not receive that disagreeable evidence of the vicinity of sick wards, that they are accustomed to receive in such localities. The air is as pure within, as it is without, the hospital. A process of removing tainted, and introducing fresh air, is constantly going on. By a like contrivance, in summer, cool air is forced in, and warm removed—the reverse in winter. By this means the temperature of the wards is the same, winter and summer, and throughout the whole establishment there is rarely a difference of one degree. Upwards of 6000 are attended during the year; a mere fraction of those who present themselves. Mortality (medical ward) 1 in 7.7; (surgical) 1 in 15.8. Legroux, Sandras, Barth, and Grisolle, are the physicians; Robert and Hugier, surgeons. Of the former, Barth is most generally followed, who offers very practical remarks on the use of the stethoscope and auscultation. This hospital, however, is not numerously attended by students.

HOPITAL ST. ANTOINE, in the suburb of the same name; unquestionably the model hospital of Paris. At first a home of refuge for reformed prostitutes, now a general hospital. Contains 290 beds, and administers relief to upwards of 5000 annually; the mortality among which is about 1 in 9.6. Chassaignac, known for his translation of Cooper, is the surgeon.

HOPITAL NECKER, founded by a lady of the same name, mother of the celebrated Madame de Stael, in 1779. This hospital is rendered fa-

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mons by the presence of one man—*Civiale*, the lithotrotist, a man qualified to add renown to a city. He lectures easily, but not sufficiently loud to be distinctly heard. He seizes the stone with the greatest ease and dexterity, breaks it into several pieces, and crushes those again. Unlike those who make one operation a hobby, he frequently rejects persons who come to him, when the stone is too large or too hard. Lithotrity, he says, should only be performed when the stone is friable, and under a certain size. He is very mild and affable in his manner, with a total absence of that boasting there is so much reason to censure in *les étoiles de la science*.

HOPITAL DE LA CHARITE, originally the head quarters of a religious corporation (Saint Jean de Dieu) for nourishing the sick, whose ramifications extended throughout the greater part of France. To-day a hospital of the first-class, containing about 500 beds; nearly 8000 patients receive professional assistance annually. It is composed of a series of buildings, forming a hollow square. Some of the wards are very large, containing about 90 beds, labelled off into different *salles*. A most efficient medical and surgical staff attend this hospital, and it is but necessary to mention the names of *Rayer*, *Cruveilhier*, *Andral*, *Bouillaud*, *Piorry*, and *Briquet*, physicians; *Velpeau* and *Gerdy*, surgeons, as a proof. Cruveilhier and Andral, probably the most generally known throughout the world, are not so much sought after in hospital as are those of more circumscribed reputation. A. rarely dilates on the cases under treatment, while walking through the wards; his views, therefore, are not easily learned from himself; while Cruveilhier is frequently absent, from indisposition and the press of private engagements. Bouillaud thinks, that notwithstanding his strenuous labors in the cause of science, the world is unmindful of them, and also of him. And often does he complain of the decision of that portion of the medical public who view with a more favorable eye, the labors of his more fortunate, though less deserving *confrères*. B. was the first to point out the frequency with which articular rheumatism is accompanied by endocarditis. In the latter affection, as well as in pericarditis, he still adheres to his old severe anti-phlogistic plan. I have rarely seen a physician more correct in diagnosis. A contrast to Bouillaud in most respects, is met with in his colleague Piorry. The latter seems to possess *internal* evidence of the *bruit* he has made in the world; and while he inwardly congratulates himself on the distinguished position he has attained, he highly approves of the public choice, in conferring honors and distinctions upon one so deserving of them. An extract from a *conversazione* will show the estimation in which he holds himself:—"Messieurs,—Si vous suiverez mes lec-

tures régulièrement, je vous donnerai un certificat; et un certificat de moi vaut plus qu'un diplôme." Not only in chest affections, but also in those of the abdomen and renal regions, the pleximeter is invariably had recourse to, to resolve all difficulties. His *tactus eruditus* is really extraordinary, and although many are disposed to smile at the extreme length to which he carries those matters, *post mortem* appearances generally confirm his diagnosis. Velpeau—a quiet, little, grey-haired old man, still attends as regularly to his duties as if he had his reputation yet to earn. He seems to be a favorite, and is always encircled by a number of students, who listen with respect and attention to the remarks offered in an easy familiar manner. The students who attend his instructions are quiet and attentive—*rarae aves* in the wards of a Parisian hospital.

HOPITAL DE LA FACULTE, in the vicinity of, and directly opposite to, the *Ecole de Medicine*, in the *quartier latin*. In this hospital there are a surgical and obstetrical clinic; about 850 receive assistance in the former during the year, and upwards of 2000 births take place in the latter; mortality among which is 1 in 23.0, and 1 in 16.8 in surgery. Dubois and Nelaton are the professors in their respective departments.

Nelaton's surgical clinic is the most numerously attended in Paris, and he one of the most popular teachers. He is mild and agreeable in his manners—of an even gentle temper. Although he lectures with great facility, he seems to attach little importance to oratorical display. He is possessed of wonderful acuteness of perception, and faculty for observation—is bold and energetic, at the same time cautious. In fine no truer or no higher tribute can be paid him as a surgeon than by styling him the *Syme* of Paris.

HOPITAL BONSECOURS, containing 318 beds, and administering relief to upwards of 5000 in-door patients annually. Mortality in the medical wards averages 1 in 11.8; in the surgical 1 in 28.1.

MAISON NATIONALE DE SANTE, for those who are able to pay the expenses of their keeping. Not more than 5, or less than 2 francs are charged *per diem*, according to the room occupied,—baths, food, linen, &c., are included. The patients are attended by six medical students, and, when necessary, Nelaton and Denonvilliers are called in consultation.

HOPITAL SAINT LOUIS.—This hospital, for the treatment of skin diseases, is situated in the Rue Bichat, Faubourg du Temple; contains 825 beds, generally all filled; but the number of in-door patients is trifling, compared to that of the out-door. The surgical cases, of which there are a great number, are attended to by Malgaigne and Denonvilliers.

Malgaigne's proper theatre is the *Ecole de Medicine*, where students, in addition to being taught surgery, are listeners to the most eloquent

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dissertations that are to be heard within the walls of a college. They style him "La Rachel de la Faculté, Le Cécero des Hospitiaux," &c. I have often listened to him with unbounded pleasure and admiration. His clear voice is distinctly heard in every corner of the immense, dark, sombre lecture room. In the St. Louis, his clinic is well attended, especially by strangers, many of whom are forced to come to the conclusion that the medical world came to, long ago,——. While they admire the fertility of his genius, they regret that the patient's feelings and comfort form such an unimportant item in his calculations.

HOPITAL DU MIDI,—founded by Godfrey de la Tour, in 1613. At the time of its foundation, one bed served for eight patients, four of whom occupied it from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.; and the other four from 1 to 7 a.m. They received, with their ticket of admission, a severe flogging—were thrust into a dark, close cellar, among other unfortunates—forced to wait months, and sometimes a year, before being placed under treatment—to lie as already mentioned, and finally to receive another severe castigation before leaving. At that time the married and the single of both sexes occupied the same ill-lighted, ill-ventilated dungeons. But now matters are changed, and if the Midi is not so elegant as other hospitals, every inmate of it, has, at least, a separate bed—of which there are 321. Upwards of 3000 are admitted during the year, the mortality among whom does not generally exceed 11. Ricord and Vidal attend. We rarely meet with physicians to the same hospital, holding views so widely different, as are those of M. Ricord from his colleague Vidal. While, on the one hand, Ricord, almost alone and unassisted, asserts the non-transmissibility of matter other than the pus of chancre, and its entrance into the system only by a chancre—Vidal, with Velpeau, Malgaigne, and a host of lesser stars, have tried hard to confute him, and whether successful or not the curious in those matters must decide for themselves. Ricord, notwithstanding this powerful opposition, still holds forth to a class if anything more numerous than before. He is possessed of great volubility of speech, is remarkably witty, constantly indulges in rough jokes and *double entendres*. His class and visiting hour are looked forward to, as something to be enjoyed, while a roar of laughter not unfrequently announces their termination.

HOPITAL DE LA REPUBLIQUE.—This, though unfinished is a very pretty edifice, situated between the St. Denis and Poissonnière Gates, and is composed of ten bodies, connected together by arches; six are for patients, the remaining four for baths, laundry, &c. It is ventilated and heated in the same manner as the Hopital Beaujon. The hospital accommodates about 600 patients, but the *service* is never followed.

HOPITAL DE LOURCINE.—Few hospitals were so imperatively called for, as this one, for females affected with syphilis. It was founded for

that purpose in 1559; was subsequently, however, a house of refuge, but finally returned to its original object. It is one of the most comfortable and convenient in Paris; one in which there is every facility for bathing, washing, &c. Upwards of 2000 are treated annually; the mortality among which is 1 in 50. This hospital is not so well attended as it should be; students are fonder of following the surgical cliniques, and those on diseases of the chest. In no other hospital with which I am acquainted, with the exception of the venereal wards of the Charité, in Berlin under Simon, is there the same facilities for investigating for one's self, this branch of medicine, and for examining diseased structures; the opportunity, therefore, should not be neglected, of attending while in Paris the Lourcine, and of receiving the instructions of Cullerier and Gosselin.

**HOPITAL DE L'HOTEL DES INVALIDES.**—This hospital, I need hardly mention, is for the reception of old soldiers who had been wounded in the field of battle or otherwise in their country's cause. It was opened for that purpose in 1674. It was not, however, then completed, for the chapel, in which now rests the remains of Napoleon, was not finished until thirty years afterwards. The Hotel des Invalides ranks with the most magnificent edifices in Paris, and is pointed at with pleasure and with pride by those of their countrymen who envy not the comfortable and elegant home of the aged and maimed soldier. It contains nearly 3500 men, of whom nearly 150 are officers. They are divided into 14 divisions, each commanded by a chief, adjutant, and sub-adjutant of division. The first division is formed of officers, among whom is a female, bearing the title of sub-lieutenant, and wearing epaulette and sword. In the hospital of the Hotel the deaths nearly average 1 *per diem*; more than half of whom die between the ages of 70 and 80. Two physicians and three surgeons are in attendance.

**HOPITAL DU VAL-DE-GRAVE.**—On the 1st April 1645, Louis XIV. laid the first stone, in accordance with a vow made by his mother, Ann of Austria; it having pleased the Almighty to put an end to her sterility. It was for nearly two centuries and a half the residence of a religious corporation, when in 1793 it was converted into a military hospital. The first object that meets our eye, after our entrance, and one that must be grateful to the sight of every lover of humanity, is a bronze statue, by David—of him of whom Napoleon said: *c'est l'homme le plus honnête que j'ai connu*—of Baron Larrey. This hospital is composed of three squares, and is surrounded by extensive and beautiful gardens, one part of which is a promenade for soldiers, and the other for officers. There is also a botanic garden, for those whose inclination leads them in that quarter. There is a fine collection of anatomical preparations, both wax and soft. Also a museum for comparative anatomy, and a cabinet of natural history.



curiosities. There are curiosities, however, to which the medical portion of the public attach greater interest, namely, the instruments, &c., that Larrey used in the campaign. The trophies that he brought back with him bear evidence of the scenes he witnessed, while there exists abundant proof of the unbounded fertility of his genius, in the rude contrivances to which he was often compelled to resort on the field of battle.

The hospital can be made to accommodate 4000 soldiers. Previous to 1850, students were educated in the Val-de-Grâce for the army, but since that period, none but physicians are allowed to attend, who are compelled to pass a year there *en service* before entering the army. The mortality in the Val-de-Grâce averages about 1 in 34, and about 220 deaths occur during the week.

The *chirurgien en chef* is M. Larrey, son of the late Baron. In Larrey we meet with a true representative of a class of persons, now uncommonly rare—*un vrai Français du bon vieux temps*—quiet, graceful, exceedingly and really polite—paying due attention to, and courting the opinions of others, and advancing his own without ostentation. He is far from being a dexterous operator, and *on dit* that he inherits the powers of application, though not the talent, of his father. Admission is granted to this hospital but once a week; M. Larrey, however, can, at his discretion, furnish a *carte d'entrée* at any time, and it seemingly affords him great pleasure to do so.

**HOPITAL MILITAIRE DU ROULE.**—The site of this hospital, (Rue du Faubourg St. Honoré,) is that on which formerly stood the stables of the family d'Artois; but whether for a stable or an hospital, the situation is unexceptionable. It is composed of a series of buildings, forming a hollow square, a portion of which is a garden, contains 700 beds and mortality is 1 in 19. Seven physicians are attached to the hospital, besides about 20 assistants.

**HOPITAL DU GROS-CAILLOU.**—Near the Champ de Mars, in a very favorable position, is situated the Gros-Cailloü—a number of buildings enclosing a garden. The whole interior of this establishment is kept scrupulously clean. It receives about 6000 annually; mortality among which is 1 in 29. Nine physicians and their assistants compose the staff of this hospital.

**MAISON NATIONALE DE CHARLETAN.\***—It is surprising what unlooked for results do frequently follow the exertions of humble individuals. When, in 1641, Sebastien Leblanc, in the goodness of his honest and

\* The distance of this establishment from Paris (nearly six miles) might almost exclude it from this paper, but it has hitherto been associated with similar institutions within the city, and I am not desirous of departing from the usual custom.

generous heart, founded the above institution, and looked with pleasure and with pride on the *four* poor sick men, that his bounty fed, and his kindness nursed, little did he dream that nearly half a hundred demented beings would one day be congregated together on the same spot, and within an edifice unsurpassed in comfort or architectural beauty. It is situated in a most delightful part of the country. On one side the forest of Vincennes, and on the other the Marne and Seine. There are numerous gardens, promenades, pretty groves, &c. The males occupy one end of the building, the females the other: mortality is about 1 in 8.5. The number of recoveries (of intellect) not unfrequently amounts to one in 3 and it is thought that many more would recover were it not for shortcoming funds compelling their removal.

HOSPICE DE LA VIEILLESSE (MALE).—This hospital is usually known under the name of Bicêtre and is situated at the distance of a mile and a half from Paris. Almost every public building in Paris has, at one time or another, experienced those vicissitudes of fortune, those convulsive movements, which, unfortunately for the French nation, too frequently occur. The Bicêtre forms no exception, and is intimately incorporated with its country's history. It was a chateau in 1220, then the hot bed of political intrigue—afterwards the seat of diplomatic negotiations—then a retreat for *debauchés* courtiers—subsequently a military hospital—afterwards a general hospital, where diseases of all kinds were huddled together in a delightful confusion. Idiots, knaves, and prostitutes, with the really and feignedly sick, without distinction of age or sex, were cooped up within its walls, and it was not until 1820 that the Bicêtre became, as it is now, a house of refuge for indigent old age. The situation of the Bicêtre is very favorable—an elevated piece of land, in the middle of an extensive open field. Those who have attained the age of 70 are admissible on recommendation, while those who have attained 79, by right. In connection with it there is a department for lunatics. The indigent and the insane work a certain number of hours a day (unless countermanded by the physicians attending), and to the indigent is returned one-third of the proceeds of their labor. The establishment contains 3120 beds, 100 of which are for the insane. The mortality among the latter is 1 in 6.48, precisely the same as that which holds good among the aged!

In connection with the Bicêtre, there is, for the female insane, a work-house; and an immense farm for the males; the latter work on an average 8 and 10 hours a day. Male and female teachers are attached, who go far towards bringing back dethroned reason.

SALPETRIERE.—An institution similar to the preceding, for females exclusively, above 70, and the insane and cancerous. For the indigent

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3441 beds are set apart. Nearly 3000 occupy the Salpêtrière at the same time, and the mortality averages 1 in 7.28. The number of recoveries among those of aberrated intellect is about a third; no coercion, but on the contrary, the greatest gentleness is used towards these unfortunates. The mortality among them averages about 1 in 9.35—a much more favorable percentage than that among the males.

As this is the last institution of the kind that I shall have occasion to mention, I may be pardoned for recording my humble, yet sincere testimony in favor of the *moral* management of the insane, which I had so much pleasure in observing at the above institution. In no instance did I observe the least fear in the countenances of the demented on the approach of their keepers; on the contrary, their appearance was invariably hailed with pleasure; those who *could* smile *did* smile, and the furious seemed for the moment to forget their fury. On gazing at the faces made cheerful by kindness, I could not but think that there was much truth in the poet's assertion:

"There's a pleasure, even in madness, which  
Mad men only know."

In, and around Paris, there are ten establishments (private) for the reception of the insane. They are all favorably situated. Most of them are fitted up in style approaching to elegance, with every comfort, and even luxury, that humanity could suggest, or fancy desire. On the establishments of Esquirol and Pinel in particular, too much praise cannot be bestowed. The precepts laid down by Pinel, and followed by Esquirol, have caused a complete revolution in the management of the insane. Previous to their teachings, they were treated with cruelty and harshness, as beings incapable of appreciating kindness. Loaded with chains, they were thrust into dungeons, into which the light of Heaven feebly penetrated, and there treated, without any reference whatever to their recovery. A mad house formerly served the same purpose as a gaol, namely, to shut out from society individuals dangerous to it. The inhuman treatment to which they were subjected, soon produced the result too often devoutly wished by friends and relations—perfect quietness was generally soon obtained, and patients were removed without difficulty—*en cerceuil*.

Pinel and Esquirol taught that reason may be dethroned temporarily; that it may be re-placed upon the seat it once occupied, and that firmness, tempered with gentleness—not coercion—is the means to be employed.

The revolution that has, since their day, taken place, and the happy results by which it has been followed, must afford pleasure to all those within whose breast one sympathetic note of pity responds to the voice of misery.

A list of the "Causes" of Insanity, and the trade, occupation, or profession, which seems most to influence it, may not be void of interest. The following are the statistics for 1849, of M. Segoyt, published in the *Paris Medical*.

PHYSICAL CAUSES.		MORAL CAUSES.	
Effect of Age,	582	Love and Jealousy,	801
Idiotism and Inherited,	3445	Sorrow,	1369
Excessive Irritability,	958	Political Events,	313
"    Labor,	217	Ambition,	473
Want,	458	Pride,	340
Onanism,	450	Religion improperly understood,	632
Skin Diseases,	67		
Wounds and Injuries,	144	Total known causes,	13,123
Syphilis,	106	"    unknown do,	5,849
Hydrocephalus,	29		
Epilepsy and Convulsions,	1383	Total,	18,972
Fever, Phthisis, and Heart Disease,	343		
Emanations from Putrid Substances,	26		
Abuse of Liquors,	987		
LIBERAL PROFESSION.		Workers in Thread and Tape,	771
Divinity, Law, Medicine, &c.,	990	"    Buildings,	303
Landlords, Proprietors, &c.,	1216	"    Leather and skins,	298
Military,	453	"    Colors,	41
Artists,	110	"    Eatables, Drinks, &c.,	471
Negotiators, Merchants, wholesale,	218	"    Articles of Clothing,	1427
Retail Merchants,	456	Persons engaged in Husbandry,	2564
MECHANICAL PROFESSION.		Laborers,	1256
Workers in Wood,	469	Domestics,	1164
"    Iron,	239	Without Profession,	3014
"    Gold and Silver,	71	Unknown do,	3898
"    Other Metals,	91		

I have given the statistics *in extenso*, for, with the exception of Prussia, and perhaps Bavaria, there is probably no country in which medical statistics are kept with so much precision. Among the list of "Physical Causes," the reader will observe that out of nearly nineteen thousand cases of insanity, only 450 are traceable to Onanism. On comparing this, to the statement made a few years ago, in the "American Journal of Insanity," to the effect that upwards of half the cases in the U.S. were traceable to an excessive indulgence in this solitary vice, we are surprised at the discrepancy, and wonder why it is so much less frequent, in a country, in which the standard of morality, is unquestionably lower. "Many a truth is told in a joke," and the remarks of a French gentleman to whom I mentioned the circumstance, may not be an exception to the adage: "On n'est pas nécessité ici en France, à avoir recours à ces moyens artificielles.—VIRGINES FACILES ne sont pas si rares que dans l'Amerique, et on est licencié tant par les mœurs qu'on est protégé par la loi."

There exist, for the removal of deformity, three orthopædic establishments. *Hydropathy* also has a few, where worshippers at the shrine of Humbug, may, for a small consideration of £50 or £60, be fed, lodged, and rolled in wet sheets 365 times a-year! In the Rue des Recollets in

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the Faubourg St. Martin is situated the HOSPICE DES INCURABLES (male), a house of retreat for old men above the age of 70. Some are admitted under that age when infirm and helpless. It contains 512 beds; some the property of donors who fill them with the aged of their choice. Mortality 1 in 8.3.

An establishment of the same name as the preceding for females over 70 years contains 695 beds. Mortality 1 in 10.6.

The Hospices Le Prince and St. Merry are for the same purpose; the former admitting 20 above the age of 70—the latter 14 of both sexes.

There are three houses of retreat, in addition to those already mentioned, containing in all 1212 beds, which demand special notice. One (Hospice des Ménages) is intended for aged house-keepers, or the widowed, who receive threepence a-day, a certain quantity of bread, meat, wood and coal. The inmates must have been house-keepers for at least 10 years. Another (H. de la Rochefoucauld) receives the old servants of similar establishments, 12 aged or infirm ecclesiastics, and persons above 60, or deprived of their limbs. The third (H. de Ste. Péline) receives those, who, up to the period of their admission, had paid regularly a small instalment.

INSTITUTION IMPERIALE DES SOURDS MUETS.—Notwithstanding the advancement made in science and learning, after the revival of letters, the attention of philanthropists and physicians was not directed to the condition of the deaf and dumb, with an eye to their alleviation until late in the eighteenth century, when France and England, ever foremost in those works which have for their foundation, science, and for their end, the good of mankind, showed us in the labors of a Wallis, a Pereira, and others, that *mind* is given to every infant with the breath of life; that for the *manifestation*, speech or signs are necessary; but that mind, or idea, or thought, is associated with the human form whether there exist means for manifesting the same or not. Previous to the seventeenth century, sages and theologians taught, that deaf mutes were animals of an inferior class or order in the scale of being, and as inferior animals were they treated. Those already mentioned were among the first to regard speech merely as the echo of thought, and to suggest means for the production of that echo when impediments to it existed. Had they lived a century later, physiology, which teaches us that there is no such thing as dumbness, but that it arises from, and is a consequence of, an impossibility of hearing or appreciating sound, would have greatly aided them in their labors. The principles which they laid down were those which guided l'Abbé de l'Epée in his teachings, when he first formed the class of deaf mutes. 115 boys and 45 girls are now being educated where the Abbé once gave his solitary instruction. Children of from 9 to 15 years



of age are received and educated. They are permitted to remain 6 years. This institution is situated in the *Rue St. Jacques*.

**INSTITUTION DES JEUNES AVEUGLES**,—This very excellent and very admirably conducted institution, is situated in the *Boulevard des Invalides*. It is now about 70 years since it was founded. Between 150 and 200 now receive instruction in the various branches of education. A full course is distributed over a period of eight years, and comprises, with the usual branches, a knowledge of different trades.

**HOPITAL IMPERIAL DES QUINZE-VINGTS**.—Founded by St. Louis in 1224—this hospital afterwards contained so many, that badges had to be worn to distinguish them from the other blind. It is again confined to its original object, namely, the accommodation of, as its name implies, twenty fifteens.

The old men of the 10th Arrondissement have a *maison de retraite* of their own; the origin of which is peculiar. About 14 years ago, two young girls, one less than, and the other 18 years of age, collected together a few infirm old persons, and by begging the crumbs and waste victuals from the rich man's table, managed to support them. The National Guard, observing the good resulting from the labours of two individuals, and thinking that by more extended encouragement, they might obtain for themselves, a comfortable retreat when overtaken by old age, secured the services of these two maidens. The inmates now amount to upwards of 100. About £4 sterling is charged annually to males; £2 15s to females. Cheap boarding this; but

"No solid dish their week-day meal affords,  
No added puddings solemnize the Lord's."

A cup of coffee for breakfast; soup, a plate of meat, and a glass of wine for dinner; a plate of vegetables and a glass of wine for supper. The inmates work about six hours a day, and receive half the proceeds of their labour.

In the *Rue de Colombes*, Protestants have a very agreeable retreat—the *Asile Lambrechts* for the aged and the blind—amounting to 100. The situation is agreeable, the grounds and garden well laid out; the whole establishment most comfortable.

The Jews have, since 1852, a house of refuge for those of their persuasion, for which they are indebted to Baron James Rothschild. The *Hospice Israelite* is second to no institution of the kind in external appearance, and contains 100 beds.

The **ASILE DE LA PROVIDENCE** receives 60 old persons; the **MAISON DE SECOURS DU GRAND ORIENT**, 24; relieves with bread, meat, fuel, clothing, or medicaments, the masons *en voyage* to or from any part of the world, and furnishes them with a home, or money, if necessary.

The MAISON HOSPITALIERE D'ENGHIEN lodges 60 men and 40 women.  
The INFIRMERIE DE MARIE THERESE, 32.

This brings the enumeration of the HOPITAUX ET HOSPICES PARISIENNES to a close, and, in taking leave of them, I must express to my very excellent friend, Dr. Meding, President of the Société Med. All., my warmest acknowledgement for his advice and assistance—assistance of the greatest moment, inasmuch as he himself, had previously been engaged in the same labour. I have consulted his work, and when time did not allow me to obtain correct statistics, I have incorporated his, well assured, that few errors were likely to occur in a work by a gentleman of his talent and application.

A few general remarks on the management of the Parisian Hospitals, legitimately belong to a description of each one of them. And as the internal arrangement as well as the general management of them, differ in many respects from those of similar institutions in Britain and America—those remarks may possess some interest.

While in Britain, Canada, and elsewhere, PRIVATE CHARITY erects, and private charity supports those institutions which have for their object the alleviation of diseased humanity—L'assistance publique forms a huge and important item in French Government. There are numerous exceptions, however, and costly edifices are here and there seen to rear their heads, beneath which are collected numerous living monuments to individual philanthropy. These institutions flourish with the founders; and, as a general rule, the latter, dying, "bequeath them as a rich legacy" unto their country. All French Hospitals, as well at Paris as in the Provinces, are under the direction of, are guided by, and receive assistance from, the *administration generale*. This is one of the wealthiest and most perfectly organized corporations in France. With an annual income of upwards of half a million, it is placed *hors de besoin*, and prepared for any emergency. This immense income enables it to support not only general hospitals, but also special ones for almost every disease and age. Thus it has been seen that the infant may draw the first breath of life in a hospital—reach extreme old age, and terminate his existence there; and during the whole course of his chequered and diseased life, public solicitude watches over him, and ministers to his every comfort. The *administration générale* is composed of a Director General, (a government appointment) a council of inspection, composed of 20 members, of which only 4 are physicians, a general secretary, two inspectors, and a treasurer. Each one of the above is charged, in addition to his common duties, with the inspection of certain institutions. The ostensible head of a hospital, in virtue of his appointment is a non-professional, or at least a non-medical; the *actual* director, in virtue of his duties, is a profes-

sional. Where a perfect understanding and friendly relations exist between the legal and should be director, I mean, when the physician assumes all responsibility, and acts independently of, though apparently in concert with, the director, the latter, all the time unconscious but that he is the moving power, every thing goes on smoothly; but when a director is too keenly alive to the importance of his office, is jealous of his prerogative, and seeks for opportunities of exercising it, such as refusing wine or extras to patients when ordered, or denying admission to those who require immediate care, it is then the greatest confusion arises, and the injurious effects of misplaced power are most apparent. This has been commented upon at great length by the *Presse* of Paris, and there is no doubt but the evil will soon be remedied.

It is not left to the discretion of an individual to seek admission into any hospital he may choose, unless suddenly taken ill, or in danger of death from accident; otherwise, he is compelled to go the *Bureau Central*, in the *Place du Parvis*, and there receive a ticket for that hospital—to which the nature of the disease peculiarly entitles him. This *Bureau*, in addition to the above, serves the purpose of a large dispensary. The poor there receive bandages, trusses, bougies, catheters, belts, wooden legs, &c., &c., &c. On certain days, attention is given to special diseases, as of the eye, urethra, &c. The *Bureau Central* is composed of twelve physicians and six surgeons. But to return to the hospitals. The number now in Paris under the supervision of the *administration générale* amounts to 27\*. In these 27 there are about 18,000 patients. The number consigned to the care of one medical attendant is, by far too great. Most of the hospital staff are men of extensive practice, and it cannot be expected that in an hour or less, physicians can prescribe for 80 patients—more frequently still for 90, and often for 100. The hurried manner in which they pass through the wards, is as unproductive to patients as to those who take the trouble to follow them—scarcely sufficient time being allowed to enable the *interne* to write the oft repeated order, *bouillon, bouillon, bouillon*. Indeed, to hear a clinical teacher's observations on cases in the ward, a person must station himself in advance at some bed where the ticket has been taken down—for at such only does he stop. The hurried manner in which Physicians pass through the wards, is, to a considerable extent, compensated for, by the care and attention of the zealous and highly efficient hospital apothecaries and other officers. Patients are much more at the mercy of these, than of the attending Physicians, and much more still at the mercy of the Sisters of Charity who act as nurses. The latter are in

\* I do not, ofcourse, include the numerous private institutions, some of which I have already mentioned in the text.

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the constant habit of altering prescriptions, diet, &c., *ad libitum*. The *externes* are advanced students—elected annually—and having served for one year are eligible for *internes*. These are elected for four years.

The diet of the hospitals is divided into four kinds—the lowest or 1st consisting of nothing—the 4th or most generous of bread, soup, boiled meat, dry or fresh vegetables, in sufficient quantity, with wine. The bread used is very good and is made at the Boulangerie Générale in the Rue Scipion. The meat is killed at the Boucherie Générale in the Boulevard de l'Hôpital. These establishments are under the exclusive management of the *administration générale*. When patients leave the hospital they are allowed 3 portions of bread, 3 of wine and 5 of boiled meat with soup. The poor receive, in addition, some money and clothes.

The mortality at the different hospitals averages 1 in 12.07—the greatest (1 in 9.06) being at the Hotel-Dieu—the least (1 in 15.09) at the hospital Cochin.

In closing, I cannot refrain from again alluding to, and censuring, that direct infringement of all Hygienic law, by which 80, 90, or 100 sick persons are confined in a not over-cheerful or too well ventilated room. The wholesale manner in which patients are prescribed for, might also, with advantage to them, be changed. Nor would the immense number of students who frequent the hospitals be injured thereby, for it must be apparent to all who have given the least attention to the subject, that more real good is to be derived from the careful study of a few select cases brought together in a clinical ward, (as is the case in the German hospitals, and those British ones into which the late Dr. Graves introduced the German system) than in hurrying past a hundred diseased creatures, in about as much time as might suffice for the proper examination of half a dozen.

There yet remain a number of houses of refuge, &c., which should with equal justice be introduced, but the limits originally prescribed have already been overstepped, and time and circumstances permit of but very little addition. I will conclude with a brief review of the most important medical societies, &c., commencing with that which seems to exercise the greatest influence on the character of the French Physician—the

**FACULTE DE MEDECINE.**—The foundation of this institution—pregnant with historic interest, is, by many writers, carried back to the time when Charlemagne held imperial sway. It was not till the middle of the 12th century, that the nature and objects of the Faculté were defined—when it assumed to itself the prerogative and authority of a University. Up to that time, the members of it amounted to 31, the number (exclusive

of Surgeons and licentiates) practising in Paris. At its origin it was poor, for then, as now, Physicians, as a body, were as much distinguished for their poverty, as they ever have been for their scientific acquirements. In the beginning of the 16th century, schools were built, and thence we may date the commencement of a system of instruction, which, modified and improved, has, in our day, arrived at a degree of excellence and perfection, which we meet not with elsewhere. At an early period of its history, there were two professors of medicine; one taught concerning "*things natural and unnatural*," (anatomy, physiology, hygiene,) the other, concerning *preternatural things*. Each one completed the course he had begun, by taking the place of the other. Surgery was then introduced, and physicians fearing they might overstep their legitimate boundary thus define the province of surgery: *Chirurgiæ professor, chirurgica tantum doceat idest quæ operationem manum pertinent*. At that time the qualifications necessary to become a member were very high, and strange to say, of a medical society, members when admitted, were required to declare on oath that they were not married, nor were they allowed to marry, when members, under pain of expulsion. Early in the 18th century, surgery, under the special favour of the King, eclipsed in brilliancy, the proudest days of medicine, and the indignities which the latter had heaped upon surgery, were now aided by the strong arm of royalty, returned. The Faculté was, after a time, again victorious, and again and again was on the brink of dissolution. It continued, however, to drag its sluggish length along until 1821, when the Académie Royale came into existence. This Académie afterwards called Nationale, now Impériale, succeeded in obtaining the suppression of the Faculty—but only for a time—for students, attached to their teachers, and possessing unusual advantages in an excellent Museum, Library, &c., would not attend those, whose greatest claim to be listened to, was royal favour. The Faculté still exists, changed indeed, by making new and repealing old statutes, but still possessing the germs implanted by its founders, which has enabled it to exist during a period of 500 years of no common vicissitude, and at times to flourish. Connected with it, are an Anatomical Amphitheatre, Botanic Garden, Museum (the far-famed Dupuytren's) Chemical Laboratory, Library, Hospital, where there are conveniences for dissecting 450 bodies.

All the chairs in the Faculté de Médecine are filled by men of world wide *reimnee*, and it is necessary to mention among others, the names of Cruveilhier, Malgaigne, Orfila,\* Andral, Piorry, Bouillaud, Trousseau, Roux, Nelaton, Velpeau, Dubois, &c., &c. in confirmation.

\*The faces of the students wore an unusual air of solemnity, when on repairing on the 12th March 1853 to the Ecole de Medecine in the *Quartier Latin*, they found the gates closed,

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**INSTITUT DE FRANCE.**—At the latter part of last century, the various academies in Paris, of which there were then a great number, were united into one, under the name of Institut de France. It is unnecessary to dwell at any length upon it, for few, I am convinced, who are at all conversant with French literature, can be ignorant of the advantages which have resulted to the whole scientific world from the labours of this *non-pareille* institution. The scientific world is also indebted to the Institut, for being the first to permit to their distant colabourers in science—competition for prizes. Even at a time when the most deadly hatred existed between the French and English nations, when all foreigners, especially Frenchmen, were excluded from taking part in, or competing for honours in the learned societies of England, the Institut under Napoleon, threw open “the lists,” to persons of all parties, and of all nations—which were freely entered—and more than one Briton has borne off laurels from the Capital of France. The Institut is divided into eleven sections. The first five pertain to mathematical science scilicet: geometry, mechanics, astronomy, geography and navigation, physics; the latter six belong to the physical sciences, they are: chemistry, mineralogy, botany, rural economy, anatomy and zoology, and lastly medicine and surgery. Each section is represented by six members. François Arago, whose loss, science has since had to deplore, was present in his place of perpetual Secretary, when I last saw him, in April 1853. Several prizes are given annually. Those relating to medicine are the following: 1. Pour récompenser les perfectionnements de la médecine et de la chirurgie, et les découvertes ayant pour objet le traitement d’une maladie interne, et celui d’une maladie externe. 2. Pour récompenser ceux qui auront trouvé le moyen de rendre un art ou métier moins insalubres, et à décerner aux ouvrages ou découvertes qui auront paru dans l’année sur des objets utiles. 3. Prix de statistique. 4. Prix de physiologie expérimentale.

**ACADEMIE DE MEDECINE.**—Founded in 1820, for the purpose of furnish-

and their eyes rested on a small piece of paper attached to the court-railing on which was written: “causé par la mort de M. Orfila.” The unwelcome nature of the intelligence was visible in their countenances, for Orfila was their favorite and friend, and had fitted up a Museum of great value, which he dedicated “aux Etudiants en Médecine,” and had instituted prizes in those branches to which he had devoted his life-time. The following Monday, the corse was borne from his late residence to the Eglise St. Sulpice, where a service for the dead was performed. All the professors and academicians in their robes assisted. The road leading from the Church to Père la Chaise was lined by military, who, “close up” as the *cortège* passes. The coffin is laid in the earth—a funeral oration is pronounced, and Orfila is left alone. Thus terminated the existence of one, whose sun rose in obscurity, but went down in splendour. The youth, who, upwards of half a century ago, finds his way to Paris, unknown, uncared for, becomes the honoured associate of potentates and princes in science, whose authority has brought, is bringing, and will bring death or freedom to thousands who never heard his name, for Orfila as a toxicologist and an authority in legal medicine, stood alone.

ing to government information concerning the public health. This is considered the highest medical society in Paris—and to be *member* of it, is a distinction much coveted, and bestowed with care and discrimination. The President is M. Berard, and the foreign British associates are Brodie, Lawrence, Marshall Hall and Travers, all of London.

**SOCIETE DE CHIRURGIE.**—This society, founded in 1843, for the purpose of advancing the interests of surgery, is composed of 36 members. Candidates for membership must present an original *memoire*, addressed to the society, accompanied with a written application. The character of the Essay, and the professional reputation of the writer, decide the voting. The President is M. Guersant and 15 distinguished foreigners are members, among whom are Brodie, Guthrie, Lawrence, and Travers of London, Ballingall and Simpson, of Edinburgh, Sir Phillip Crampton, of Dublin, and Mott, of New York. \*

A Society under the name *Société de Médecine pratique*, under the presidency of Paul Dubois, holds its monthly sittings for the purpose of directing special attention to Therapeutics. Another bearing the title *Société Médico-pratique* discusses at its fortnightly meetings, questions relating to practical medicine and surgery. The *Société Médicale d'Emulation* hold its sittings once a month. The above three give prizes annually, on the best essays presented to them during the year.

**SOCIETE MEDICALE DES HOPITAUX.**—Composed entirely of the physicians to the Civil Hospitals in Paris, this society, which publishes the business of its fortnightly meetings in the form of *Actes de la Société Médicale des Hôpitaux*, may be regarded as the exponent of French doctrine and French practice. It apparently possesses more vitality than the others I have mentioned, and occasional *Assaut d'Armes*, add to their discussions an enlivening character.

**SOCIETE MEDICALE D'OBSERVATION.**—Of which M. Louis is the permanent President—perpendendæ et numerandæ observationes—meets every Friday evening, at the Hotel-Dieu. The proceedings of the Société Médico-Chirurgicale may be gleaned from the *Gazette des Hôpitaux*. The Société Anatomique was reorganized in 1826 around a nucleus composed of Cruveilhier and a few students; Cruveilhier has since continued president. The Société de Pharmacie, founded for the purpose of binding together the pharmacutists of France and elsewhere, dis-

\* It must be a source of gratification to Americans visiting Europe, to perceive the very high estimation in which their illustrious countryman is held—showing that there are those *ultra mare* who are not quite "Barbarians in Science." The name of Valentine Mot is "as familiar in their mouths as Household words." His election to the Société de Chirurgie was the only unanimous one.

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tributes annually a number of prizes, many of them of value, Bou-  
chardat presides and Souberain is Secretary.

Biology has lately become a science in Paris, and the Société de Bio-  
logie for its propagation, counts among its members, Velpeau, Magen-  
die, Andral, Bouillaud, Barth, &c., the latter being president.

The British, German and American Physician, congregated in Paris,  
have each a society (Parisian Medical Society, Verein Deutscher  
Aerzte, American Medical Society), in which are discussed what of  
interest has occurred in the hospitals during the preceding week. *Mes-  
sieurs les Medecins des Hopitaux* little dream of the over-hauling they  
sometimes get at the hands of these worthies.

I will hazard a short sketch of the French Physicians for (although  
I much doubt my ability to give a correct one) the nature of this paper im-  
peratively demands some such attempt. But far from wishing to thrust  
any observations of mine upon the reader, to be received as articles of faith  
I would beg to mention them merely as impressions. If we follow a  
physician through the wards of an hospital, or attend him in the walks  
of private professional life, we soon learn to form an estimate of his cha-  
racter, and to estimate, at something approaching to an equivalent, his  
professional worth. Of individuals, however, it is easy to speak, but, to  
reduce a class composed of such heterologous material to a general  
standard, is, to say the least of it, a matter of no small difficulty.

Regard in what aspect we may, the Parisian Physician and Surgeon  
(for such I take as the type) the conclusion at which we cannot but  
arrive, is, that they are, generally speaking, men of high scientific at-  
tainments, and, in the principles of their noble profession well versed.  
Few there are who deny this, and were we content to admit all that is  
told us concerning

"The way toe heale diseases rare  
As if by plummet rule and square."

the high opinion preconceived of them would be greatly strengthened.  
Indeed, on first visiting Paris, I was half inclined to think that I had  
spent too much time in cruising about among the hospitals of Britain  
and Germany picking up the little crumbs of knowledge. How much  
more might I have learned, thought I, had I sooner directed my steps  
hither where they seem to have the happy nack of curing diseases in  
half the time. But the charm with which novelty invests all things,  
soon wore off, "and then came a change o'er the spirit of my dream."

The *Chefs de Clinique*, especially those of *renommee* seem placed in a  
false position, as it were. Great things, in the form of novelties, are ex-  
pected of them, and their utmost endeavour is exerted in catering to this  
morbid taste. But taking matters by the fore-lock is frequently the

least expeditious, and the remedies lauded, and the theories built-up to-day, require discarding and pulling down to-morrow. The lectures of many of them are occupied, and the medical press teems, with "wonderful discoveries" for curtailing misery and lengthening the human span. No doubt, a stray shot does occasionally hit the mark, but the vast majority fall far wide of it. If we wish to derive much real, and less apparent good, we require to leave the much frequented haunts of students and visit those hospitals where time permits the attendant, quietly to consider the cases under treatment, and it is *there* we see French practice, and hear opinions which have been matured by experience and reflection. The French are proverbially no philologists, and it may be for this reason that we rarely hear the name of a British physician or surgeon mentioned within the walls of a College or Hospital, unless by Britons themselves, who do not like to see their countrymen passed over in silence.

At first I thought this proceeded from jealousy, and no doubt it often does, but when we hear a lecturer, for instance, enumerate the different amputations at the foot without mentioning Harvey or Syme; speak of diseases of the chest and liver, without allusion to Stokes, Budd, &c. but cite in all cases, French authority and the results of French practice we cannot but conclude that they are really ignorant of the existence of such men, and of the boon they, *et hoc genus omne*, have conferred on mankind. Indeed they seem constantly to impress on the minds of the students, that, without the gates of Paris there is little to be learned, impressions generally acted upon, for French students are rarely met with out of France. The political alliance now happily subsisting between the two great powers will greatly tend to a change in these matters. The French Physician possesses in an eminent degree that "*manière à faire*" so peculiar to his countrymen. I might also add "*la manière à parler*," but verbiage is oft times subservient to a good argument. An hour is with ease occupied in discussing questions of trivial importance. For the time an auditor may be well satisfied, but a retrospective glance to often shows him that there has been (to use a Shakspearian phrase) "much ado about nothing." I do not intend such sweeping remarks to apply to the whole profession, for there are men such as Civiale, Nelaton, Audral, Velpeau, Guersaut, and a hundred others, who despise anything approaching to *charlatanerie*, but I am convinced that they are applicable to the class. Of the talents, genius, faculty for observation and powers of perception of the French, it would ill-become me to speak, they are discernible in almost every page of medical history, and the names of many will last as long as the science they have so much enriched.

The medical student in Paris is not so distinctive a character as he is

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in Germany. While the latter has been pictured with his scars across his intelligent and contented looking face, his mug of *Bayerische bier* and his pipe, the latter might be sketched with his wan, sallow countenance, his *demi-bouteille de bon vin* before him, and his *grisette* by his side. The latter is with him an indispensable article of furniture to grace his lodging, prepare his meals, &c. Each *grisette* occasionally gives her little tea-party, at which assist the intimate friends of her *aimant* and their *grisettes*. Once a week they adjourn to the *Prado*, or some other dancing *locale*, and there "trip the light fantastic toe." The *grisettes*, when students are received, are transferred to some one else, provided they do not get married, which not unfrequently happens. It is sometimes a difficult matter to keep students in order during a lecture or operation. If too long, they put an end to it by their shuffling. If some unlucky assistant places himself between the operator and the students, the confusion that arises is really amusing; he is saluted with such epithets as cannot but be painful to his vanity; and if that does not succeed, with such missiles as may chance to become. If a lecturer is too long in making his appearance, one might fancy that all the animals of a menagerie had found their way into the lecture room, nor is quietness always restored on his entrance.

The curriculum of study requires four years in Paris. It is not so expensive as in Britain, for hospital tickets, which, in the latter, form such a huge item of expense, are free. The order of study is prescribed by the College.

I have thus hastily reviewed much of what I considered interesting—but while there yet remains matter for a hundred such papers, I have contented myself with merely lifting a *corner* of the veil which conceals the whole.

Montreal, January 22, 1855.